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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

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Soil Conservation Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Harry E. Reddick, Regional Conservator	Santa Paula
Charles W. Petit, District Manager	Santa Paula
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CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

STATEMENT COVERING FUNCTIONS OF SOIL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATIONS

New work will be undertaken only in areas which have formed a voluntary soil conservation association.

People in any project area who desire work done by Soil Conservation Service will file applications with the Directors of the local associations. If applications are filed directly with Soil Conservation Service these applications are to be routed back to the directors of the associations. Directors will approve these applications if in order and return to Soil Conservation Service. Then Erosion Practices group will proceed as at present to plan work and draw up co-operative agreements with individual farmers. In case farmer is not agreeable to signing recommendations of our Erosion Practices group and Erosion Practices group is unable to adjust and the farmer still wishes some of the work done, he is to be referred to the directors of the local association who will, after a hearing, make recommendations to Soil Conservation Service.

Complaints of co-operators, if any, should be made to local representative of Soil Conservation Service and any that are not cared for directly by Soil Conservation Service are to be made to directors of local associations who, after conferring with the Soil Conservation Service representatives, will make recommendations to Soil Conservation Service.

Local Soil Conservation directors shall, in conjunction with Regional Conservator and Director of Extension or their representatives, develop a local soil conservation program which is to be recommended to Soil Conservation Service.

Radio

Weekly series of broadcasts on soil conservation, Western Farm and Home Hour - stations KPO, KECA, and KFSD. Time: 12:16 to 12:24 p.m. on the following dates: May 25, June 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

This series of broadcasts will deal with the various phases of the Soil Conservation Service program and all interested are invited to listen in during the noon hour on the above dates.

Washington Men
See Projects

Region Number 10 of the Soil Conservation Service was honored by the presence of D. S. Myer, Chief of Co-operative Relations and Planning, C. B. Manifold, Chief of Conservation Operations, and E. J. Utz, Chief of Erosion Control Practices, on May 15 to 18.

They were shown over the Aliso Creek, Las Posas, Arroyo Grande, and Corralitos areas by Harry E. Reddick, Regional Conservator, and members of the staff. The opportunity for better understanding of mutual problems makes joint field observations of great value to the Service.

Northern California Projects

Soil
Conservation
Surveys

Soil Conservation surveys were continued in the Corralitos, Placerville, Sebastopol, and English Hills projects. Approximately 3064 acres were surveyed.

Corralitos

Farms under co-operative agreement in the Corralitos area total 74. Soil Conservation surveys were made of 1875 acres in April. During the same period 24 permanent terrace outlet structures and 6979 linear feet of terrace outlet channels were completed. Forestation planting for April covered three acres, and gully planting two acres.

Sebastopol

Farms under co-operative agreement in the Sebastopol area total 34. Soil Conservation surveys were made of 308 acres in April, one permanent terrace outlet structure was constructed, and 1775 linear feet of terrace outlet channels were completed.

Placerville

Farms under co-operative agreement in the Placerville area total 10. Soil Conservation surveys were made of 480 acres in April and 300 linear feet of terrace outlet channels were completed.

Approximately 60,000 Austrian Pine, 50,000 Coulter Pine, 40,000 Monterey Pine, 5,000 Digger Pine, and 5,000 Canary Island Pine, are being moved from The Institute of Forest Genetics, near Placerville, to the Soil Conservation Service Nursery at Watsonville, where they will be transplanted and carried over till next year for use on the northern projects. 10,000 Ponderosa, or Western Yellow Pine, are being transplanted at The Institute of Forest Genetics for use on the Placerville project next year. In addition, 10,000 Ponderosa and 10,000 Toyon, or Christmas Berry, will be grown in seed beds at The Institute during the coming year.

English Hills

Farms under co-operative agreement in the English Hills area total 13. Soil Conservation surveys were made of 401 acres in April; 9 permanent terrace outlet structures and 1638 linear feet of terrace outlet channels were completed; 22 permanent dams were constructed; 8000 square yards of bank were sloped; over 4000 linear feet of diversion ditches were constructed.

Southern California Projects

Soil
Conservation
Surveys

Soil Conservation surveys were continued on the Vista, Palos Verdes, Aliso Creek, Las Posas, and Lompoc projects. A total of approximately 10,579 acres were surveyed covering 31 farms. Individual soil conservation survey maps with their attached legends were prepared covering all farms placed under co-operative agreement during April.

Las Posas

Farms under co-operative agreement in the Las Posas area total 74, four farms being added in April. Soil Conservation surveys were made of 1428 acres in April; 88 acres of land were taken out of cultivation; 30 acres of cultivated land were retired to forest; 2.24 miles of terraces were constructed; 11 permanent terrace outlet structures completed; 7 permanent dams constructed; over 3000 linear feet of diversion ditches were completed; over 55 acres were planted to trees.

Arroyo Grande

Farms under co-operative agreement in the Arroyo Grande area total 52. In April 30 permanent terrace outlet structures and 1120 linear feet of diversion ditches were completed; over 22 acres of ditch bank and 51 acres of pasture were seeded.

Aliso Creek

Five farms in the Aliso Creek area were placed under co-operative agreement in April, bringing the total to 13. Soil Conservation surveys were made of 6961 acres in April. 671 acres were contour-tilled for the first time and 37 acres newly contour-furrowed; 89.13 acres of cultivated land and 249.46 acres of pasture land were retired to forest; 16 permanent terrace outlet structures were completed; 5 permanent dams were constructed; 6525 linear feet of diversion ditches were completed; forestation plantings totaled 235 acres for April.

Trees - Aliso Creek

157,000 trees were planted this season on the Aliso Creek Project. Contour furrowing was used in connection with some of the tree plantings. A typical example was a 6.31 acre planting on a sloping field. Two men and a team of mules contour-furrowed the field. The furrows are eight inches deep and six feet apart. They are designed not only to serve as catch-basins to retain moisture but to prevent the washing of the soil until the trees become firmly established. Trees planted in this field, as well as those on other parts of the area, are growing vigorously and a good survival is looked for. It is generally recognized that trees offer one of the most efficient means of controlling soil-washing on sloping fields. In addition they have an economic value as firewood and posts when thinning operations become necessary.

A total of 9700 trees were planted on the field referred to above, being distributed as follows:

White Ironbark	1300	Chinese Pistache	150
Blue Gum	3700	Silk Oak	100
Forest Gray Gum	2300	Buffalo Berry	50
Siberian Elm	2000	Bottlebrush	100

El Toro CCC
Aliso Creek Area

El Toro CCC camp, in the Aliso Creek demonstration, is prepared for the fire season. The camp has the following fire-fighting equipment: back pumps, two miles of telephone lines, brush hooks, 200 canteens, a tank wagon, headlights, etc. Other camps are similarly equipped. Keeping fires out of vegetated areas on a watershed is essential if soil erosion is to be controlled.

Lompoc

In April 7 permanent dams were constructed in the Lompoc area; 200 linear feet of gully diversion ditches were built; 3.2 miles of terraces finished and 2571 cubic yards of earth were excavated in flood control drainage channels and ditches; forestation planting totaled 30 acres.

Vista

In the Vista area during April 5 permanent dams were constructed; $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of minor roads were maintained and repaired; 300 linear feet of gully diversion ditches were completed; 1385 linear feet of terrace channels were excavated.

Palos Verdes

In the Palos Verdes area during April 13 permanent dams were constructed; 500 linear feet of diversion ditch and 3.2 miles of terraces were completed; 6 permanent terrace outlet structures were completed; rodent control operations covered 152 acres; topographic surveys were made of 20 acres.

Nevada

Demonstration
Areas

Work of the Soil Conservation Service in Nevada is confined mainly to the public domain, although there is some work being done on private land. A total of approximately 50,000 acres, in Lincoln County, comprises the three demonstrational areas on the public domain, of which 20,000 acres are in the Pahranaagat Valley, 20,000 acres in the vicinity of Ursine, and 10,000 acres in the Barclay area.

The basis of the Soil Conservation Service program in Nevada is the prevention of run-off. If the water can be kept on the land the over-grazed range will have a fighting chance to stage a comeback.

Crystal Springs

In the Crystal Springs unit pasture contour-furrows are used to spread rainwater out of the gullies onto adjoining land. Crested Wheat, Bulbous Blue, and Smooth Brome grasses are being seeded behind the furrows. One of the outstanding accomplishments in April was the construction of $114\frac{1}{2}$ miles of these furrows.

Ursine

Brush and earth fill dams are used in the Ursine area to spread rainwater which otherwise would go down into Meadow Valley Wash. Up to the present time 1400 dams of this type have been constructed. Additional work contemplated in this area is the building of revetments along Meadow Valley Wash to prevent further cutting of valuable privately-owned farm lands. Construction of a few dams of the concrete and log type for the purpose of raising the water table is also contemplated.

Bunkerville

During April in the Bunkerville area 140 permanent dams were constructed and 3.5 miles of lineal surveys made. A spring is being developed near Bunkerville to provide water for the proposed fenced area near there.

Panaca

Six miles of lineal surveys were made and 34 permanent dams constructed in the Panaca area during April. Brush and earth fill dams are being built to spread torrential rains which would otherwise be wasted. In the Meadow Valley Wash, below Panaca, it is contemplated that revetments to prevent further cutting and to raise the water table will be built.

Pahranagat Valley

Work is contemplated in the Pahranagat Valley outside of the proposed fenced area. It will consist of clearing the main channel, a total distance of six miles.

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS HOLD MEETINGS

Salinas Valley
West Side SCA

A meeting of the directors of the Salinas Valley-West Side Soil Conservation Association was held in Gonzales April 21. Ninety percent of the farmers on the west side of the river have joined the association.

Tri-County SCA

Directors of the Tri-County Soil Conservation Association held a meeting at Aromas April 21. A majority of the farmers in and around Aromas have joined the association, and 20 have signed up at Elkhorn.

Chandler Lake
SCA

A meeting of the Chandler Lake Soil Conservation Association was held April 23. At the present time the association consists of 21 members. Mr. R. E.

Chandler resigned as chairman and his son was elected to take his place; Mr. M. P. Sommes and Mr. J. Brazil were elected to fill the two vacancies on the Board.

Larkin Valley SCA A meeting of the directors of the Larkin Valley Soil Conservation Association was held April 23.

Corralitos SCA April 23 a meeting of the directors of the Corralitos SCA was held. The association now has 32 members.

Valencia SCA A meeting of the directors of the Valencia Soil Conservation Association was held April 24. The association now has 37 members.

Pleasant Valley SCA A meeting of the directors of the Pleasant Valley Soil Conservation Association was held April 24.

El Toro SCA Directors of the El Toro Soil Conservation Association held a meeting May 15.

T O U R S

Lompoc Tour Lompoc-Buellton Soil Conservation Association members toured the Lompoc project Saturday afternoon, April 25. Preceding the tour a business meeting of Association members was held at the Lompoc CCC camp. Transportation from the camp over the area and back was furnished by the Service.

Arroyo Grande Tour Farmers and other San Luis Obispo County residents made a tour of the Arroyo Grande project April 30. Members of the SCS technical staff pointed out erosion control methods being used on the 6500 acre project.

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In addition to associations listed in previous monthly reports the following have been added:

Las Posas SCA Las Posas Soil Conservation Association - Ventura County
T. F. McParland, President
Fred Aggen, Vice-President
Tom Bard, Secretary-Treasurer
Carl Grether, Director
E. Borchard, Director
C. C. Perkins, Director
A. F. Furrer, Director

